

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST PEST REPORTER**

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www.state.nj.us/agriculture/plant

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GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING COMPLETED

From May 9 through May 30 the NJDA worked with 23 municipalities around the state to treat more than 8,500 acres forested residential land with *Bacillus thuringiensis, var. kurstaki* (B.t.) to control heavy populations of leaf-eating gypsy moths. The treated acreage was less than the 10,964 acres originally planned because Ringwood Borough and West Milford Township (Passaic County), Mahwah Township and Franklin Lakes Borough (Bergen County) and Hampton Township (Sussex County) decided not to participate.

The aerial spraying was supervised by NJDA with the towns providing labor to mark spray boundaries and notify residents and local funding to pay the aerial applicator.

The state Department of Treasury's Purchase Bureau awarded the contract to perform the aerial suppression project in March to Downtown Aero Crop Service of Vineland. The per-acre price for aerial B.t. application in Burlington, Ocean and Salem Counties was \$14.23 while applications in Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren Counties cost \$16.96 per acre. Spraying was done with four Grumman Ag-Cats and one twin-engine Aztec and generally ran smoothly despite some weather delays from rain and fog.

In addition to the NJDA spray project, the NJDEP's Bureau of Parks and Forestry treated just over 4,200 acres of public lands in the counties of Camden, Hunterdon, Morris and Passaic.

A county-by-county summary of the municipalities proposed for treatment and acreage actually treated by NJDA is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. NJDA 2001 Gypsy Moth Aerial Suppression Program

County	Municipality	Number Blocks	Acres Proposed	Actual Acres Treated
Bergen	Franklin Lakes	1	79	0
	Mahwah Township	2	446	0
Burlington	Bass River Twp.	1	98	0
	Medford Twp.	4	347	462
	Medford Lks. Bor.	1	31	30
	Shamong Twp.	2	284	292
	Southampton Twp.	2	321	321
	Tabernacle Twp.	5	1,217	1,240
Hunterdon	Alexandria Twp.	1	160	160
	Bethlehem Twp.	2	309	322
	Holland Township	2	256	260
	Union Township	1	84	84
Morris	Kinnelon Borough	3	2,415	2,412
	Rockaway Township	5	800	784
Ocean	Lakewood Township	1	410	410
Passaic	Bloomington Bor.	3	329	301
	Ringwood Borough	1	2,082	0
	Wanaque Borough	2	305	303
	West Milford Twp.	4	2,112	0

County	Municipality	Number Blocks	Acres Proposed	Actual Acres Treated
Salem	Carneys Point Twp.	3	102	102
	Oldmans Township	2	25	25
	Pittsgrove Township	1	25	25
	Upper Pittstown Twp.	1	23	23
Sussex	Byram Township	2	154	154
	Fredon Township	1	205	205
	Hampton Township	1	35	0
	Sparta Township	2	259	259
	Stillwater Township	1	62	62
Warren	Blairstown Township	1	278	278
Statewide Total			13,253	8,514

GYPSY MOTH KILL LARGE OAKS WITH ONE SEVERE DEFOLIATION

Last year was the first year of severe defoliation (100 %) for a number of large specimen oak trees on Oak Lane in Holland Township (Hunterdon County) and it proved to be deadly. A visit to the site on May 31, 2001, showed three white oaks and three red oaks, varying between 18 and 36 inches in diameter, dead after just one defoliation. The loss affected five homeowners who believe it will cost more than \$1,000 per tree to have them remove. Oak loss after a single defoliation is not common but the situation may have been complicated by prior years of drought.

RESIDENTS COMPLAIN OF HIGH COST OF GROUND SPRAYING

Complaints from residents about the high cost of treating gypsy moth infestations are pouring in to the NJDA from areas not participating in the Cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Project this spring. In Jefferson Township (Morris County) 20 homeowners joined together to spray 20 acres at a total cost of \$4,000 or \$200 per acre. This was the lowest cost/acre reported. In Medford Township (Burlington County) numerous

homeowners complained that spray vendors wanted \$580 per acre to treat gypsy moth-infested trees.

But the highest price quote for spraying for a homeowner came from Oakland Borough (Bergen County) where a ground applicator wanted \$1,400 to treat a 10-foot buffer strip immediately around a home. In addition, the vendor wanted to return in August to spray the gypsy moth egg masses for an additional \$1,400. In this case, the Department recommended that the homeowner seek price quotes from other vendors and not to consider the egg mass spray.

EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR and BIRCH LEAFMINERS AT HIGH LEVELS

Forest pest survey inspections during May showed high populations of the Eastern tent caterpillar and birch leafminers in most counties across the state. Webbing or tents in wild cherry and crabapple trees were especially numerous in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties and NJDA fielded numerous telephone complaints about migrating caterpillars. Control recommendations were offered but in most cases the trees will refoliate without serious dieback or loss. Homeowners were also advised how to distinguish between the Eastern tent caterpillar larvae and the gypsy moth.

High numbers of birch leafminers were also observed causing leaf “browning” on grey and white birch trees across the state. Once the leaves turn brown from the larvae feeding between the upper and lower leaf layers it is too late to apply controls. Homeowners were advised to watch for the second generation of the pest in July and treat with acephate or carbaryl when the “mines” first appear.

<p>For further information contact: John D. Kegg, Chief Bureau of Plant Pest and Disease Control e-mail: john.kegg@ag.state.nj.us</p>
